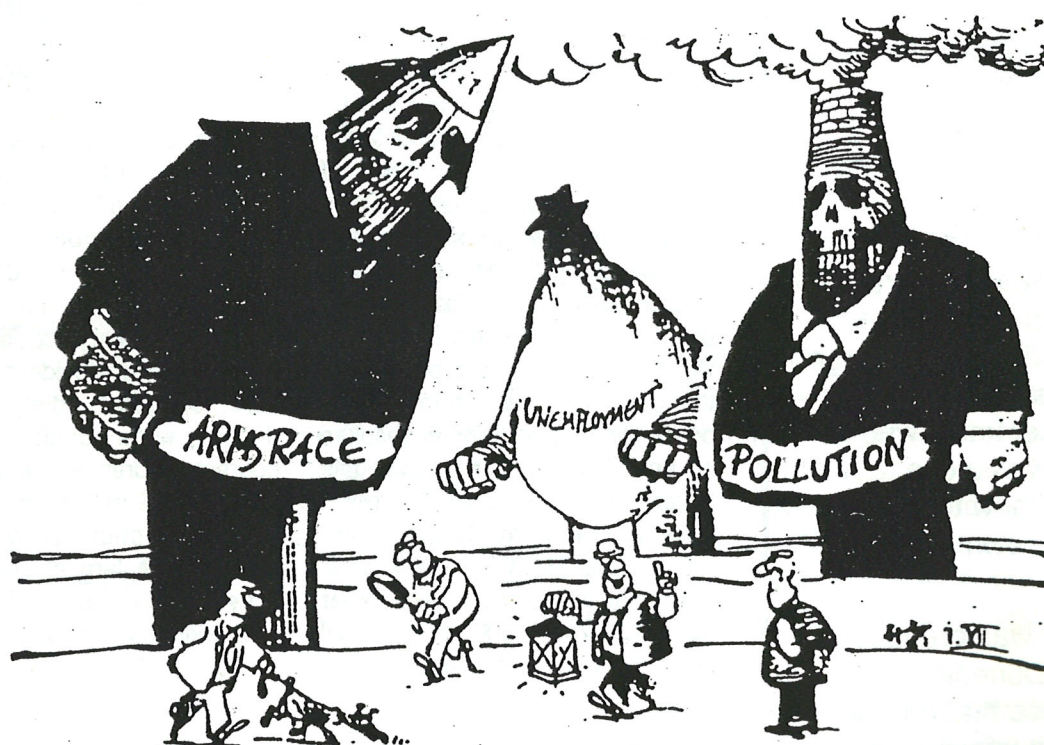


# Aotearoa Youth Network



*"We're trying to find the reasons for youth protest."*

Kia ora people!

The feeling of sitting in a room with hundreds of other young people, drawn together out a need to create change through awareness, unity and positive action, was a true inspiration in itself. But it is how to hold on to that inspiration that is the issue. How can we carry that feeling of unity and support back to our individual communities, our separate lives and still draw on

on the energies of each other for political progressive actions?

Yes, the answer lies in networking- as Terese O'Connell put it, the trendy word of the nineties.

Yet at the same time we remain aware of the political, ideological and spiritual divisions amongst us. We can use networking effectively if we recognise these differences, accept them and make a commitment to support each other in the actions and campaigns we believe in.

The aim of the Aotearoa Youth Network is to act as an information service, to recharge our levels of inspiration by letting each other know who is doing what, how you can participate, and how to gain support for your own campaigns.

This newsletter was produced in The Web, a Dunedin community space that can be used for gaining information and creating campaigns, for progressive groups or movements of any kind. That is what we would like the Aotearoa Youth Network to be. We will publish anything you send us. Our only condition is that it be non-racist, non-sexist and non-homophobic. This network is here for you in whatever way you would like to use it.

We are a group of Otago University students who have put this first newsletter together but we are open to the idea of a shared system where each

# They're Killing Our World

**The dilemma:** At the current rate of global warming our generation can expect a 1.5 metre rise in sea level, enough to threaten about one third of the world's population and over one third of its economic infrastructure. If the Antarctic Ice Sheet slides into the ocean, then we can expect a 4.9 metre sea level rise. Deserts and semi-deserts account for more than one third of the earth's land surface. Since the early seventies, deforestation and misuse of land has caused the desertification of six million hectares of fertile soil a year. Four fifths of the world's population live in poverty, by the year 2050 half of the global population may be living in absolute poverty. Currently, 1.75 billion people have no safe drinking water, 800 million go hungry every day, 900 million are illiterate, and 280,000 die each week due to malnutrition and disease. **What happens when:** 500 multinational companies, only a few thousand

individuals, control 80% of all the world's industrial production. In 1985 world production of cereals and root crops, the primary sources of food, amounted to 560 kgs per head of population - more than double the minimum nutritional requirement. Yet in 1985, 730 million people did not get enough to eat to sustain an active working life, 340 million suffered from malnutrition, and 40 million died from hunger. **If we could run our own affairs then:** We could spend the equivalent of what the world now spends on military activities in a day and a half, to provide basic health care, education, diet, and clean drinking water for the 500 million poorest children in the world. With what the US military spends in two years, we could convert all US industry, the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, to environmentally friendly production.





organisation receives information and helps get it out to people.

Send us your ideas. This network is not necessarily student based but Otago and other tertiary institutions can be used to obtain funding.

Through this network we have a chance to empower each other. After all, power is not a thing to be accumulated but a thing to be shared.

He aha te mea nui i te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

Kia kaha

→ Cybele Locke (Otago Student Green Movement)

## *Impressions of PPP*

If I learnt anything at Peace Power and Politics it was that the people have never lost the power, that it was never taken from us. We were simply made to believe that if we spoke alone our voice would not be heard, that if we tried to come together the diversity and the enormity of the issues that face us would tear us apart. It's a common tactic used by a dominating power known commonly as Divide and Rule. In a room full of angry, inspirational, empowered youth that sort of thinking wasn't going to last long. At one point it looked as though it would. When it boiled down to the practical side of setting up a network it suddenly seemed that two groups were in opposition to each other. It was

an encounter that could have left (and probably did leave) some of us feeling disillusioned and cynical.

Division and apathy go hand in hand and the last thing this country needs is division within the group that has the most potential to get us out of the mess we are in. More than once at Peace, Power and Politics we saw the hope that those who attended placed in the ability of youth to make changes. It was in the standing ovation given to Moana Cole, it was in the memories of the older women and men who linked their past to ours, and most of all it was in a room crammed full of young activists.

There is nothing worse than division (and where there is diversity there is usually conflict) but this is easily overcome. The guys from NORML had an idea that for me was one of the most empowering things at the conference, it was something along the lines of, "If you help us with your cause, we will do the same for you" - UNITY. If we keep this idea as our most important principle then we will always have a common goal. With this goal there is no room for anger, no time for power plays and no place for terms like 'centralized control', and 'bureaucracy'. This network will be what we as progressive youth make of it. There is no possibility that it will be controlled by a minority because it will have no support if it does. Junk mail never goes down well. The potential for this network is beyond words, except to say that if we all participate, communicate and unite we will scare the shit out of our oppressors. 600 people at the PP&P Conference will have some very powerful people very worried. How about we help give them an early retirement with this network. Can't wait to hear from you!

I'd really like some feedback on this, do you agree/disagree, what was your impression of the conference, where do we go from here?

→ Fiona Clayton (Student Greens, Active Women on Campus, Web Resource Centre.)



## *Keep your pollution!*

Practically all environmental degradation in the East is due to overconsumption in the West. Consumption has many facets. First is the excessive and wasteful use of resources by the West - resources that it extracts forcibly, using the new colonial weapons of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other aid to keep us more amenable to exporting our irreplaceable assets. Second, to keep Western industries going, inefficient, outdated and harmful machinery and chemicals are forcibly dumped on the East.

Most important, however, is the constant brainwashing to the effect that prosperity means the Western way of life - more of everything and bigger, faster, more waste-generating. This generates imitation and raises consumption levels of people and countries that cannot afford it. It also destroys nature-based economies without replacing them with anything better.

The generation and distribution of electricity are one example. India has bought Western style thermal plants and dams (and now nuclear plants), and 90% of the machinery in both comes from the West. These thermal plants work at less than 50% of their capacity. 1,600 dams provide only 2.5% of the country's power, and the damage they cause, by flooding during the monsoon, runs into the millions of dollars.

Fewer than 10% of our villages are electrified, because the power system does not work. But that does not

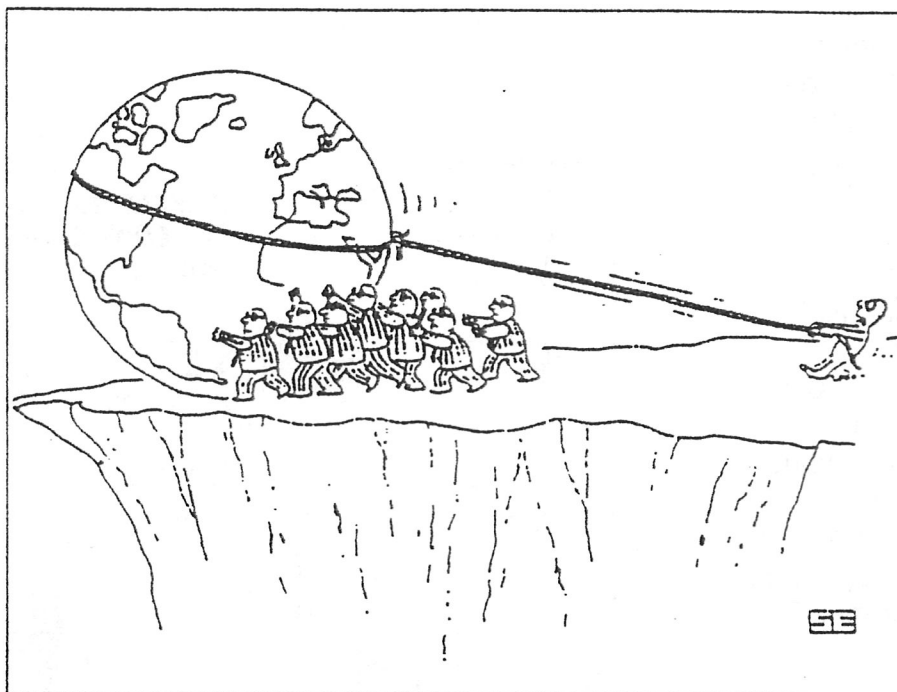
prevent the West from selling, or giving us as aid, news power plants that will need new machinery after a few years, which can then be sold at double the normal price.

70% of our water is polluted. A large part of that is due to pesticides that have been sold to us by countries that have banned the use of such products for themselves. Look at the diversion of land for export crops to help pay our international debt - debt incurred by the cost of oil and machinery. In a country where people cannot afford staple foods, the best land goes into tea, coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, and spices. All of these use a heavy concentration of pesticides and enormous amounts water, and are sold on the international market at prices fixed by the West that are lower today than they were in 1980! The most amazing land use is for fodder and flowers. Every seventh pound of meat eaten in Europe is from animals raised on grain grown in the East. Our people grow grain for animals so that people in the West can eat meat.

Reorganisation must take place. Is it essential to truck fruits from Italy to Sweden every day? Is it necessary to have a second car? Is it necessary to use disposable diapers? Is it necessary to use a non-renewable resource such as oil in such a wasteful way that the price goes up and the Third Worlds burden of debt increases even further? Was it necessary to sell us chlorofluorocarbon technology 10

years after the West had discovered that it was destroying the ozone layer?

The greatest harm done to the environment by the West is through the spread of a ideology about growth that has taken firm root among our Third World elite. The





axioms of this ideology are simple: More growth is good, less growth is worrying; negative growth is disastrous.

Multi-national companies that open factories in the East should be monitored strictly for safety procedures. Hundreds of units in India spew poison into the waters daily. Of course, Union Carbide is a case in point, making a chemical in Bhopal, India, that it was not allowed to make in the USA, and making it in the most careless way possible.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) should be strengthened and given sanction-making powers. It could act as a monitor for restraining environmentally inefficient machinery and harmful chemicals from being forced on the East. Where it is established that a developing country has been coerced into consumption, the debt should be written off. UNEP could be the channel to pass on the latest technologies that are suitable for Eastern land, water and weather conditions. It could also enforce the "polluter pays" principle, which would in time have its effect on Western governments and companies. It could come up with solutions that sustain life, not destroy it.

**The East is ready to listen. Is the West?**

→ *Maneka Ghandi*

## *The Newsletter*

We want to put in anything that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. Please, please write with stuff so that we can make this newsletter better, and so that we can get stuff from around the country. We will try to put in everything, without cutting it, but please note that :

We **won't** print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any group, and we **won't** put in personal abuse. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Also, it costs a lot to put this out - so if you can, please send a donation to the Aotearoa Youth Network, c/- The Web Resource Centre, 111 Moray Place Dunedin. If you know someone who would be interested in getting the newsletter, then get them to write - and if you do, or don't, want to be on the mailing list - please let us know!!

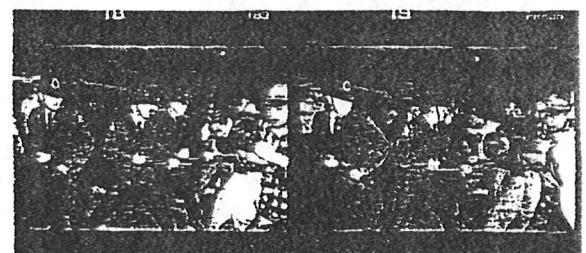
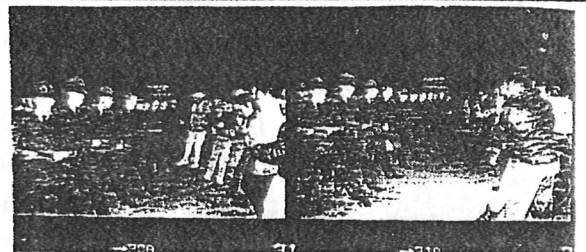
## ***JOBS IN 1993 - THE REALITY***

Thanks to National, Labour and those who make our employment and labour policies, the reality of working today is pretty dreadful.

Here's just one example - of a young woman working in a dairy. She works for 60 hours a week, 3 pm to 3 am, 6 days a week. For this, she gets \$4 an hour. Because she is 17, she is lucky to be paid even that. Probably her employer will try and sack her once she turns 18, rather than having to pay her better wages. If she can't prove that this isn't justified, she then can't get the dole for 6 months.

Although most Unions are very weak at the moment, if you are working, joining one can give some measure of protection. We should also be prepared to help support Workers and Unions when they do go on strike or fight for better conditions. Youth all across the country have supported some of the most recent

Union struggles, from the Milton Lockout (now in it's second year), the Ferry dispute, to the Yellow Bus Company and Astley Tannery disputes in Auckland, where on several occasions Police attacked pickets.



Police and pickets at Astley Tannery

## *Tours coming up:*

- The Campus Alliance is touring leaders from the Youth League of the African National Congress. Contact your local group for more information.
- Renato Constantino, a Philippino Youth, Peace and Indigenous Peoples' activist is touring in July and August. Write to Bruce Cronin, c/- the Auckland University Students Association for more details. Renato will be giving public talks, but will spend most of his time getting involved in local campaigns and sharing his experiences as an activist.

- Murray Horton, spokesperson for the Campaign against Foreign Control of Aotearoa (CAFCA), is touring to promote the issue of foreign investment and its affect on democracy. Contact CAFCA at PO Box 2258 Christchurch for details.

Association or the Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre) and Dunedin (Education Action Group, c/- Otago University Students' Association) are already in preperation.

- Ngakawau Dam camp / protest - August 27th to 29th. Contact Greenpeace (ph. 09-3776128) for more information, or Environmental Youth Alliance, or the Student Environmental Action Network.
- National Day of Action for Ngakawau, July 19. Contacts as above.

## *Events:*

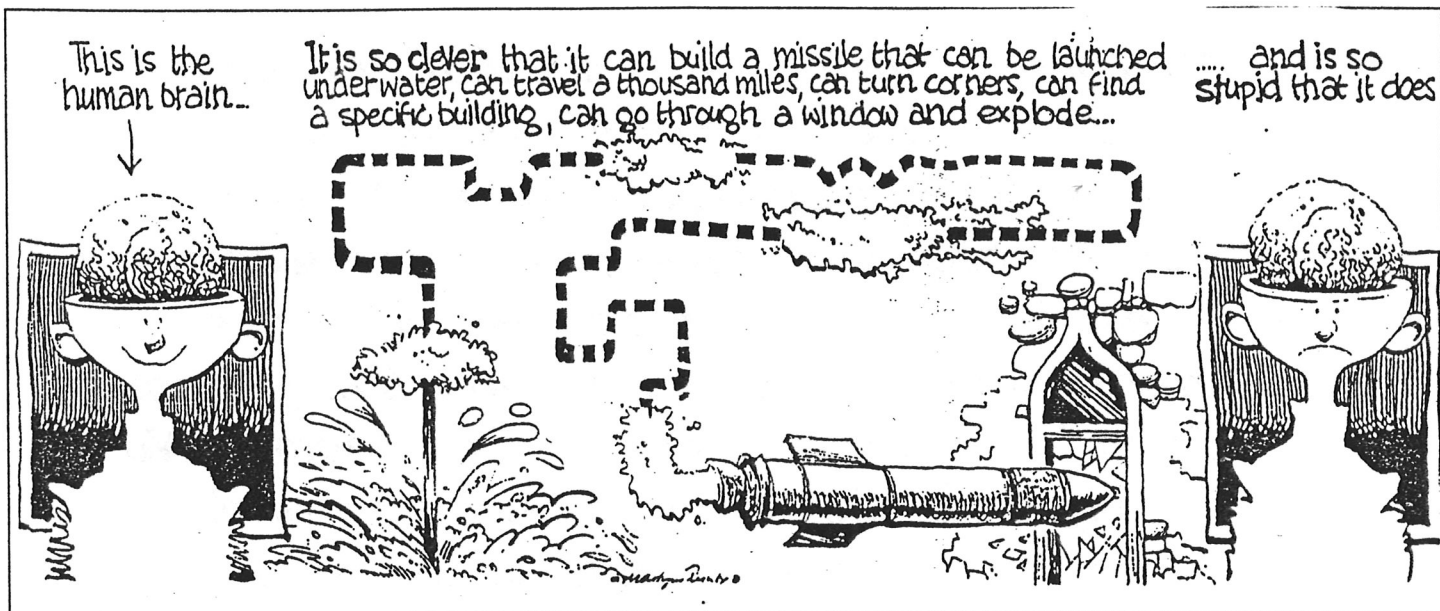
- July 1 Budget day mobilisation - actions in Whangerau, Manakau (contact the State Housing Action Coalition, PO Box 80001 Auckland), Auckland (Education Action Group, c/- Auckland University Students'



## Because We're Women

Because woman's work is never done and is underpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get the sack and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get bashed we must have provoked it and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos and if we don't we're frigid and if we love women it's because we can't get a "real" man and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and/or pushy and if we expect community care for children we're selfish and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and "unfeminine" and if we don't we're typical weak females and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man and if we don't we're unnatural and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion and ..... for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation movement.





## Protests

On June the 13th, about 25 Youth held a picket at the open day of the Frigate Southland in Dunedin. In pouring rain, with only Bob Dylan songs and the occasional egg being thrown by crew members, they handed out leaflets to people going on board the warship, which pointed out that such open days only serve to make people accept the "need" for military weapons.

The cost of such ships is unacceptable, especially at a time when the government is cutting spending on Health, Education and everything else. Most people reacted favourably to the protest, but a few (men) got angry and drove over the picket signs, as well as arguing loudly for several minutes.

The protestors carried a banner reading "Childcare not Warfare".

Bill Birch was in Dunedin on Tuesday the 15th to speak to Dunedin Employer's about job creation. About 30 people attended a protest outside organised by the Education Action Group. Birch had snuck into the Hotel where he was talking early in the day, but was "greeted" by those outside when he finally emerged, under heavy police escort. A number of passersby indicated their support of the protest.

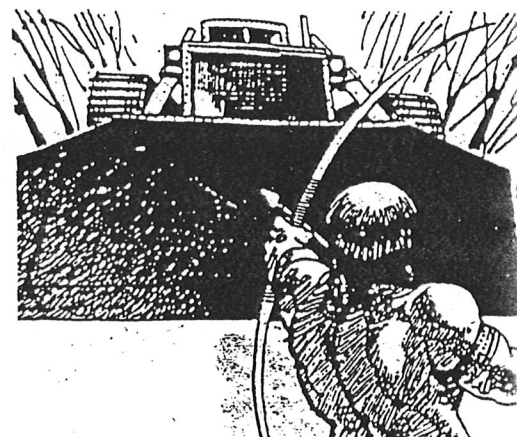
## What's in with this newsletter?

Along with the newsletter, we are putting in a few other things. Firstly, a leaflet from Women Against Pornography. The leaflet helps present some of the issues involved. Contact WAP if you want more information about groups in your area and information. Quite a few progressive people argue that we shouldn't censor anything, including porn, and say that it's strange to see feminists lining up with the

moral right on this issue. Others say that it's strange to see "progressives" lining up with the pornographers on this one!

Second, a handout from the National Distribution Union with a list of shops that have Union Contracts. Shopping at these places may not bring the revolution tomorrow, but if you shop at supermarkets and the like that aren't on the list, then you'll know that they're treating their workers even worse!

And third, an article that appeared in a Wellington paper about the Aotearoa Youth Network. Fame without even trying!



*“We have a history. It is not dull, it is usable. A heightened sense of history in a people brings a heightened sense of power. Give a people back their history, and they become less inclined to see themselves as useless, fretful sleepers, succumbing to a living death in an irrelevant province far from ‘home’. No longer can they cling so fawningly to the apron strings of some mythical Mother called ‘England’, or the coat tails of an Uncle called ‘Sam’ even, or perhaps especially, when he carries a nuclear umbrella.*

*Give a people back their history and they become increasingly aware that they have been exploited for decades and that they may also be exploiters themselves. We must ask: “Why did we believe for so long that we had no history? Who robbed us of it? Who wrote the history that did get written and what did they have to gain by writing it that way?” To the latter question, a Maori would reply, “Bloody Pakeha!” Women would answer “Bloody Men!” And I, as a working class New Zealander, might well shout: “Bloody Mannikins of the middle class!”*

*Mervyn Thompson, 1984*



# New activist generation

A NEW GENERATION of political activists began to organise itself in Wellington at Queen's Birthday weekend—but with little faith in any political party.

A month ago, organisers of the Peace, Power and Politics conference thought they might get 100 people along. In fact, more than 600 turned up out of the pouring rain at the College of Education in Karori.

An honoured handful, asked to stand on the first day, were also at the first PP&P conference held in Wellington during meetings of the Seato council back in 1968.

But the big surprise of the 1993 sequel was that far more people, almost 200 of them, stood up when those who were not even born in 1968 were called.

They came for a variety of reasons, not always strong ones. Hardly any have been politically active until now. But at the conference they have formed an Aotearoa Youth Network (AYN) consciously modelled on the Progressive Youth Movement (PYM) of the previous generation.

Its first step is "networking." Groups in all centres will send details of their activities to the Dunedin group, who will collate

them in a regular newsletter.

The second step is action. Initial actions include support for a Students' Association demonstration in Wellington on budget day, 1 July, and a protest trip to the site of a dam proposed by Buller Electricity at Ngakawau in the August school holidays.

In the words of Stephanie Mills, of Greenpeace, a lesson of the 25 years since the last conference is "the power of the action versus the pessimism of the thought."

There was plenty of thoughtful analysis over the weekend, most of it depressing. Researcher Bill Rosenberg explained how the internationalisation of production — where each part of a "Japanese" car may be made in a different country — means that companies no longer depend on well-paid workers in their home market to buy their products. The big companies are now multinational, they make goods where they are cheapest, and they sell them to whoever can afford them anywhere in the world.

Rosenberg's answer is to tighten up on foreign investment in New Zealand, and to protect local companies against cheap imports.

Many of the people at the conference are working in political

parties to win seats in Parliament to make such policy changes. People cheered when Alliance deputy leader Sandra Lee was introduced as standing against Richard Prebble, and they cheered again when David Lange warned against closer defence ties with Australia.

Yet some of those who cheered both those speakers now believe that no action can be entrusted to politicians of any party.

"Get real about politicians," said Stephanie Mills. "They are a bunch of ratbags. Don't believe that an Alliance government, or any government, is going to be for the people."

And in the last set-piece speech on Monday, peace activist Nicky Hager said most New Zealanders had supported every campaign he had been involved in, from saving beech forests to stopping the frigates. Small political parties were not the answer.

What was missing, he said, was organisers. "That is us here, people who recognise the movement and go out and organise the people."

• Aotearoa Youth Network, c/o Web Resource Centre, 111 Moray Place, Dunedin. In Wellington contact Alistair Shaw at NZ University Students Association ph 471 2559, home 471 1862.